

4.2 Definition Game

Introduction

Keywords and their definitions are an essential component of a differentiated lesson and are useful for revision and exam preparation. This activity encourages students to check their understanding of definitions and also provides students with a game which is very motivational.

Resources

A set of cards (different colours can be effective) showing different correct definitions or statements with one statement on each card. Laminated cards can be used repeatedly.

Class set-up

1. Divide your students into groups of four.
2. Give each group an identical set of definition cards.
3. Allow students ten minutes to check their definitions and look up associated keywords.
4. Say a keyword. Students have to hold up the corresponding definition card.
5. The first team to hold up a correct statement receives a point. If more than one card is relevant, the first hand up wins.

This is a great activity to promote co-operative learning as students have to work together to achieve scores. It is difficult for one student within a team to quickly sort through definitions in order to hold the correct one up. Students quickly realise that each team member needs to hold some statements and be ready to hold one of them up. Therefore, all students within a team have to get involved. Once students become familiar with the game, they become very good at checking each others' understanding in the ten-minute preparation phase.

Extension: This game could be extended by asking students to give real examples of how the definitions apply to everyday life.